

deserve our commendation for their selfless efforts to preserve such a threatened religious community, and in fact, the number of Jews living in Bulgaria actually increased during the Holocaust.

Bulgaria's record of tolerance was distorted by 40 years of communist misrule which culminated in the 1984–89 forcible assimilation campaign against its largest minority, the Turks. One of the first initiatives of the government following the fall of communism in November 1989 was the reversal of this brutal campaign. A return to the wholesale suppression of minority groups as exemplified by the forcible assimilation campaign is inconceivable today, and Bulgaria is a democracy that promotes respect for fundamental rights.

Last year, Bulgaria's Ambassador to the United States, Elena Poptodorova, testified before the Helsinki Commission regarding the ongoing efforts of her government to promote tolerance, consistent with Bulgaria's historical traditions. I have been particularly encouraged by Bulgaria's initiatives, in cooperation with leading non-governmental organizations, to promote the integration of Roma and non-Roma in schools. This work deserves the full support of the Bulgarian Government.

I am disappointed, however, that the Bulgarian Government has not yet adopted and implemented comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, even though it pledged to do so in early 1999 in a platform of action on Roma issues, and committed to do so in the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit document. Four years have come and gone since Bulgaria made those pledges, and it is past time for those pledges to be honored.

I am hopeful the Bulgarian Government will do more to combat violence motivated by racial or religious intolerance. Two cases of such violence, against Romani Pentecostals in Pazardjik, appear to have received only superficial attention from the authorities.

Madam Speaker, I also was disappointed to learn of the recent passage of a new religion law in Bulgaria. Several drafts of a religion law had laid relatively dormant until the last months of 2002, when the process was expedited. As a result, it is my understanding that minority faith communities were excluded from the drafting process and assurances to have the Council of Europe review the text again were ignored. The law is prejudiced against certain religious groups and falls well short of Bulgaria's OSCE commitments. The law also jeopardizes the legal status of the Orthodox synod not favored by the Government and its property holdings, as well as threatens fines for using the name of an existing religious organization without permission. New religious communities seeking to gain legal personality are now required to go through intrusive doctrinal reviews and cumbersome registration procedures, and co-religionists from abroad have been denied visas based on poorly written provisions.

Bulgaria's leadership on these various issues would be welcomed, especially in light of their plans to serve as Chair-in-Office of the OSCE in 2004. The United States is particularly appreciative of Bulgaria's firm stand against terrorism at this time, and we look forward to continued strong relations between our countries. The proud heritage stemming from the days of the Holocaust serves as a good reminder of the importance of taking stands which are right and true. Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased that this Congress is able to recognize that heritage and historical fact.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY BOGER, 29TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Mary W. Boger. Ms. Boger's passion for community volunteerism, especially on behalf of children and education, has made the City of Glendale and surrounding areas a better place in which to live.

A product of the Glendale Unified School District, she attended Pasadena City College, then had a successful career in the business world. Mary and her husband, Dr. Donald Boger have raised eight children in total: JoAnn, Terry, Debbie, Scott, Elizabeth, Melanie, David, Charles, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A strong advocate of education, Ms. Boger has served on numerous school committees and task forces, including Citizens for Glendale Community College, and the School Facilities Bond Committee. In addition, she has volunteered with the Glendale Parent Teacher Association, Glendale Healthy Kids, Verdugo Hills Visiting Nurse Association, Safe Places and Glendale Youth Coalition. She is currently a member of the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education, serves on the Glendale YWCA Board of Directors, and is President of Las Candelas.

Mary has received many awards, including the Glendale News Press Woman of Achievement Award in 1998, the California Legislature's 43rd Assembly District Woman of the Year in 2000, and the Glendale Community College Alumni Association's Award of Merit for Career Achievement and Community Service.

The time, energy and love she gives to our community is extraordinary, and the residents of my district have benefited greatly from her dedicated service.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mary W. Boger. The entire community joins me in thanking Mary Boger for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a healthier and safer environment, especially for children, in which to live.

FAMILY FARM AND RANCH
INNOVATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am again introducing legislation to help en-

sure our nation's family farms and ranches continue to produce the agricultural products that have made us the breadbasket for the world.

Small family farms and ranches helped build the foundation of America. Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to George Washington, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Today many small farms and ranches have disappeared. This is in part because the smaller farms and ranches have not been able to change to more profitable means of production. To continue as a viable business in agriculture farmers and ranchers need to be able to use modern techniques that increase profitability, and do it in a manner that is environmentally sound.

The Family Farm and Ranch Innovation Act (FFRJA) would provide necessary tools for small agriculture businesses to modernize and become more competitive in today's market, access to credit and a plan to turn the credit into increased revenue.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Commission on Small Farms report titled A Time to Act found, "The underlying trend toward small farm decline reflects fundamental technological and market changes. Simply put, conventional agriculture adds less and less value to food and fiber on the farm and more and more in the input and post-harvest sectors. We spend more on capital and inputs to enable fewer people to produce the Nation's food and look primarily to off farm processing to produce higher value products. Sustainable agriculture strives to change this trend by developing knowledge and strategies by which farmers can capture a large share of the agricultural dollar by using management skills to cut input costs—so a large share of the prices they receive for their products remain in their own pockets—and by producing products of higher value right from the farm." (In context of the report farms include ranches.)

The innovation plans in FFRIA, to be developed with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, would provide the blueprints to increase the value of farm and ranch outputs.

The report also found, "Agricultural operations require high levels of committed capital to achieve success. The capital-intensive nature of agricultural production makes access to financial capital, usually, in the form of credit, a critical requirement. Small farms are no different from larger farms in this regard, but testimony and USDA reports received by this Commission indicate a general under-capitalization of small farms, and increased difficulty in accessing sources of credit." If small farms and ranches are going to use improved technologies laid out in innovation plans they will need capital. The Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program has a long history of helping small businesses and would be a great tool for small farmers and ranchers to implement their plans.

America's small farms and ranches need a hand up to remain viable in our rapidly changing marketplace. Often today's small agriculture businesses are family owned and have only a very small profit margin. The combination of low market prices for raw agricultural commodities and the rising cost of land means that many of these businesses cannot afford

to carry on. And that causes more urbanization of valuable farm and ranch land.

This legislation recognizing the importance of our small farming and ranching businesses. They provide diversity in the market place, local production of food, less pollution, and jobs, all of which strengthen our economy. And, farms and ranches that are part of our community remind us that food and other agricultural products don't just come from stores, and remind us of our connection to the land.

Mr. Speaker, small farms and ranches have provided the livelihood for many families since the beginning of our country. This bill will help ensure small farms and ranches do not become a thing of the past by providing the technical expertise and capital to allow them to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

FACT SHEET—FAMILY FARM AND RANCH INNOVATION ACT

Summary: Bill would authorize the USDA to assist Small farmers and ranchers who want to improve their operations by developing Innovation Plans and would authorize the Small Business Administration to provide loan guarantees to implement these plans.

LOAN AUTHORITY

Bill authorizes the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to guarantee, under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, loans to small businesses engaged in farming and ranching, for the purpose of implementing Agricultural Innovation Plans.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PLANS

Plans are to be developed on request of a farmer or rancher whose operation has been certified as a small business concern under the definition of the Small Business Administration.

Plans are designed to increase the on-farm or on-ranch income of small farmers or ranchers and protect the environmental quality of the farm or ranch where the farming and ranching operation is located by minimizing the production of pollutants and conserving the natural resource of the farm or ranch.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, will develop the plans.

A PEACEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN MUST RESUME

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, at present there are more than 400 Chinese missiles targeted on Taiwan. It is estimated that roughly 50 more are being added each year. Moreover, China has devised strategies to destroy Taiwan's political, financial, military, communications and production centers within days. What is even more menacing is that China has reiterated that it will use force against Taiwan if Taiwan refuses to accept China's "one country, two systems" unification formula.

China's intimidation of Taiwan is unworthy of its status as a major world power. China must not ignore Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's repeated pleas for resumption of cross-strait dialogue. If war breaks out in the Taiwan Strait, China, Taiwan and the rest of the countries in the Asian-Pacific will all suffer irreparable economic and political damage.

Our friends and allies in Europe regard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait as critical to everyone's interests in Asia. On September 5, 2002, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on China to remove its missiles along Taiwan's coast. Last October, the Czech Parliament also passed a similar resolution calling on China to remove its missiles from the Taiwan Strait.

The United States believes that a military clash in the Taiwan Strait must be avoided. A peaceful dialogue between China and Taiwan must resume now. It is my hope that Beijing will begin dismantling the missiles currently targeting Taiwan and pursue a peaceful resolution of current tensions with Taiwan. I support efforts of the U.S. State Department to this important end.

In the meantime, while we advocate the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue, we must continue to sell arms to Taiwan to help Taiwan protect itself, under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act. Our commitment to defend Taiwan is, and must remain, strong and unequivocal.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to prohibit the commercial harvesting of Atlantic striped bass in the coastal waters and the exclusive economic zone of the United States. This legislation would grant protections to this species that would enable coastal populations to return to historical abundances.

The Atlantic striped bass is a valuable resource along the Atlantic coast and is one of the most important fisheries for recreational anglers within the sixth Congressional District of New Jersey. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans, I have a long history of involvement in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the striped bass fishery. It is in this spirit that I would like to designate the striped bass as a federal game fish. This bill would prohibit the commercial harvesting of striped bass and reserve this resource for recreational catches only, thereby ensuring a healthy and sustainable recreational fishery.

The recovery of the striped bass fishery since the crash of the late 1970's is an example of successful state and federal cooperation and angler support over the last two decades. The population rebound is encouraging, but a recent Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission decision to both increase the commercial quota and open the exclusive economic zone to striped bass fishing could lead to serious consequences for striped bass. I feel that this decision is too much, too soon, and it is imprudent to subject the fishery to these intensified demands. I believe we must take precautionary measures now to avoid the potential threat of a collapse in the future.

In the interest of responsible conservation and sustainable recreational fisheries, I support the goal of making striped bass a game

fish along the entire coast. I believe that this is the only way we can truly ensure the future of this important species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect the Atlantic striped bass, a species that maintains an immensely popular recreational fishery. I appreciate this opportunity to convey my concerns about the management of this prized fishery, and I look forward to continuing my involvement in ensuring sound policy decisions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMP ALVERNIA ON ITS 115TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 115th anniversary of Camp Alvernia, located in Centerport, NY.

In its first summer in 1888, Camp Alvernia's Franciscan Brothers brought deserving poor youth from Brooklyn to the country environment during the summer months. Since then, the camp has been dedicated to teaching their campers respect for themselves, each other and our environment.

Camp Alvernia also provides scholarships for families who find themselves in financial difficulty. They are committed to helping families and children from impoverished situations to develop spiritually, morally and physically while enjoying Long Island's beautiful environment.

Campers at Camp Alvernia enjoy sports, arts and crafts, nighttime campfires and many more activities.

I commend Camp Alvernia and their staff for their dedication to our nation's children, and congratulate them on their 115th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY KENDALL BALDWIN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Sally Kendall Baldwin. Ms. Baldwin's passion for community service, especially on behalf of education and the arts, has made the City of San Gabriel a better place in which to live.

A native Californian, Ms. Baldwin attended UCLA, majoring in Elementary Education. In 1960, she met and married Harry Baldwin, currently a San Gabriel City Councilman, and they have two children, Kendall and Gregory. After college, the Baldwin family moved to San Gabriel, California.